

REMARKS

Applicants have amended the claims pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.116, to cancel rejected claims and to rewrite objected-to claims in independent form. In particular, claims 1, 2, 12, 13, 24, 25 and 27 stand rejected and are hereby canceled. Claims 3-11, 14 and 23 stand objected-to as being dependent upon rejected-to independent claims; claims 3-6, 10-11, 14 and 23 are thus hereby rewritten in independent form (claims 7-9 depend from now independent claim 6 and are not therefore rewritten in independent form). Certain other amendments are made to synchronize the above amendments, such as for purpose of antecedent basis. No new matter is added.

Claims 15-22, 26 are allowable.

With the enclosed amendments, claims 3-11, 14, 15-22, 23 and 26 are in the case, of which claims 3-6, 10-11, 14, 15 and 23 are independent. This is therefore a total of 9 independent claims. Three independent claims were initially paid for; a fee ( $6 * \$43 = \$258$ ) for an additional 6 independent claims is thus required. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-0600 \$258. It is believed no additional fees are due. If any additional fee is due, please charge Deposit Account No. 12-0600.

Formal figures, including formal corrected drawings from October 30, 2002, are attached. Acceptance of the enclosed figures is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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